

11,000 more children are food-insecure than in this year, and 21,000 more adults are food-insecure.

That is why I am introducing H.R. 3888, the New Chance For a New Start Life Act of 2014, to train the chronically unemployed, some 37.7 percent of the unemployed.

I also want to salute, Mr. Speaker, the Alpha Kappa Alphas. This is their Founder's Day on January 15, as well as the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. In their name, let us do for those who need.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the importance of two of our nation's safety net programs—unemployment insurance and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program known as SNAP.

Last month I held an event at the Career and Recovery Resources Center in my district to draw attention to the 1.3 million people nationwide who lost their emergency federal unemployment insurance, which includes 12,000 unemployed job hunters in Houston.

At that event nonprofit social service organizations expressed their concern that their resources were not adequate to serve all of those who live day to day on the tattered edges of our nation's income, housing, food, and medical care safety net programs.

The churches, nonprofits, and social service organizations that run food pantries and assistance programs for the poor are desperate.

They do not have, nor can they find, funding to meet the needs of the millions of people who are stripped of resources because of cuts to federal programs that are poverty prevention and life sustaining.

Each week an additional 4,112 Texans will lose their unemployment insurance benefits—this is an emergency.

Because Food programs like SNAP have been targeted for reduction in the billions of dollars due to Sequestration and direct cuts to the program unemployment insurance has come to be a vital resource for families—especially those with children or people who are chronically ill.

In 2013, according to the Houston Food Bank's "Map the Meal Gap" report the overall food insecurity for the Houston Food Bank eight-county service area was 18.5%; and children's food insecurity was 24.2%.

The Houston Food Bank reports that 415,030 children or 1 in 4 children in their service area are food insecure.

In 2013 data shows: 11,000 more children are food insecure than in the year before; and, 21,500 more adults are food insecure than in the year before. Based on family income more than one third of food insecure children in the Houston Food Bank service area are not eligible for federal food assistance programs.

HOUSTON

In Harris County, Texas, where the city of Houston is located—59% of those who are income-eligible for SNAP benefits participate in the Program.

Almost 500,000 individuals who are eligible to participate in SNAP do not receive food assistance.

This means that almost \$700 million in SNAP benefits that should be going to children, elderly, and their families each year is lost.

This means that more than \$1 Billion in SNAP-generated local economic activity is lost to Harris County businesses each year.

TEXAS

Before the November 1st, 2013, cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program:

The Texas food insecurity rate was 27.6% making more than one in four Texas children food insecure. Six of the ten counties with the highest rates of child food insecurity in the nation are in Texas; in all of these counties more than 1 in 3 children are hungry. Seventeen counties in the U.S. have more than 100,000 food insecure children—five of these counties are in Texas.

In Texas, some 66% of income-eligible individuals participate in SNAP.

2 million individuals who are income-eligible for SNAP do not participate.

More than \$3 billion in SNAP benefits to purchase food are lost to Texas children, elderly, and their families each year.

More than \$5.5 billion in SNAP-generated local economic activity is lost to communities across the State of Texas each year.

NATIONAL

This is no time to deny even more American children, seniors, and their families, access to food programs for which they are eligible.

Even before the November cuts to SNAP, the national child food insecurity rate was 22%.

These cuts joined with the disruption of emergency insurance benefits will mean more people will be in need of food assistance under SNAP not less.

The cuts to SNAP and those the programs have already incurred are putting lives at risk—especially those of children, elderly, disabled, and chronically ill who must have healthy food each day.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues to take up emergency legislation to restore unemployment insurance to those who through no fault of their own are still seeking employment.

Not acting will harm small businesses and fragile local economies as well as the ability of local aid agencies to meet the needs of those who seek their assistance.

THE MARCH FOR LIFE

(Mr. SHUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, our Founders understood that all human beings are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights. The most important of these rights is the right to life.

Next week is the March for Life, the largest pro-life demonstration in the world. It has been over 40 years since the tragedy of *ROE v. WADE*, and the March for Life has brought together pro-life advocates every year since.

The March for Life is an important demonstration of our ongoing commitment to being advocates for those who cannot advocate for themselves.

Congress has made critical gains in the fight to protect life, but there is still work that must be done. We have a duty to stand and fight for the protection of the unborn, and I believe that life begins at conception and should be protected at all stages.

Every day, more and more Americans join us in this battle to protect life, and the movement to protect the unborn grows stronger each year.

We must continue to build on the gains that have been made and work towards building a future where the sanctity of life is upheld across the Nation.

LET'S NOT CUT SNAP

(DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, you know, the Good Book says that man does not live by bread alone, but I can tell you, if you don't have any, and if you don't have any milk, and you don't have any baby food, and you don't have all of those essentials that provide good nutrition, then you don't live healthy.

I urge my colleagues, let's not cut SNAP. Let's not take food out of the mouths of those who are hungry. Let's make sure that they can not only have bread, but milk and cheese and everything else that goes with it.

MARCH FOR LIFE

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the 41 anniversary of *ROE v. WADE*. Every year, on January 22, students come to Washington, D.C., and host a rally on the National Mall to celebrate life.

To me, the March for Life means renewed hope and faith in our Nation's young people, as I see hundreds, many from parishes just like mine, come to our Nation's Capital to stand for life.

I want to recognize all the groups from Illinois, including my former priest, Father Dan Willenborg, from my district in Nokomis, Illinois, and his group of 160 students who will travel almost 800 miles to participate in next week's March for Life.

I am praying for safe travels, and I wish I could be here with you.

As a father of a 16-year-old daughter and 13-year-old twin boys, I want to thank our youth for their commitment to life. I hope my children have the same opportunity to come to Washington to stand up for what they believe in.

TENNESSEE EDUCATION LOTTERY

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, before I was elected to Congress I served 24 years in the Tennessee State Senate. For 20 of those years I worked hard to create a Tennessee education lottery, an opportunity for students to go to college and come out without a debt and without having to have a job when they were in college to succeed.

Next Monday will be the 10th anniversary of the Tennessee Education Lottery. It has raised over \$2.8 billion for education, yet, with education costs rising, it is still not enough.

We, in Congress, need to work hard to make sure that Pell Grants increase and that Pell Grants go to students at not-for-profit schools and those for-profit schools that graduate students and get them gainful employment.

Ladders of opportunity for the middle class are paved through education. The Tennessee Education Lottery is one of those ways.

I continue my work in Congress working for Pell Grants and other opportunities to see that monies are efficiently channeled to students to give them an opportunity to improve their lives.

WATER RESOURCES IN NEW MEXICO

(Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, in Western States like New Mexico, where we continue to endure severe drought, it has become clear that water is a resource that can no longer be taken for granted.

Instead, we must recognize just how essential it is for households, for businesses, for the environment, for jobs, for life, and we must rise to the challenge because New Mexico can and should be the next innovation hub for water management technology.

New Mexico is reported to have approximately 15.4 billion acre feet of brackish water. That is enough to sustain 3 million people for 300 years.

Our communities could greatly benefit from investments in desalination technology, which would create a new water supply for our municipalities, businesses and industry, while also leading to more jobs and more economic development.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue investing in water technology initiatives, not only to better manage existing water resources but to unlock alternative water resources.

I eagerly anticipate the input from my constituents and colleagues as we set a dynamic course that will demonstrate to the region, to the country, and the world that New Mexico can respond to adversity and become a leader in water resources management.

THE CLOCK IS TICKING

(Mr. PETERS of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because thousands of folks in my home State of Michigan are looking for work, and Washington

is making their job search much harder.

The failure of Congress to find common ground to extend unemployment insurance is shameful when so many families are desperately trying to make ends meet while struggling to find work.

Tomorrow Congress will leave for a 10-day recess while another 100,000 Americans lose their lifeline and will be left out in the cold. This is simply unacceptable.

I am circulating a letter calling on Speaker BOEHNER to cancel this recess until unemployment insurance is extended. Over 90 of my colleagues have already signed on, and we are all prepared to stay in Washington to get this done.

Extending unemployment benefits has a proven economic return. It is the right thing to do for Michigan families, for families all across our country, and for our economy.

The clock is ticking. Let's cancel this recess now and get to work.

THE PRO-LIFE CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CRAMER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of our Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), my good friend and colleague.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague, CHRIS SMITH, for his leadership on developing this hour, and all of my colleagues who are here to speak on this very important issue.

This week marks the 41st anniversary of a Supreme Court decision which has denied 56 million children the right to life and denied the people of this Nation the ability to govern their country in a manner that aligns with their conscience. I thank my fellow Members for speaking today and marking this somber occasion.

Life is a gift from God and should be cherished. It is my strong belief that life begins at conception, and few things demean the sanctity of human life more than elective abortion. The unborn are the most innocent members of our society, and the fact that their right to exist has not been recognized in 41 years is a stain on our Nation's character.

As members of the Pro-Life Caucus, we have worked to eliminate taxpayer

funding for abortion, fought to preserve pro-life health care providers' rights of conscience. We have followed medical research that indicates infants can feel pain in the womb as early as the 20th week of pregnancy and passed legislation that would eliminate abortion after that time.

These are worthy pieces of legislation, but, Mr. Speaker, more must be done. I hope that the day will soon come when the Supreme Court sees fit to overturn Roe and allow the people the ability to eliminate the practice of elective abortion entirely.

For as long as I have the privilege of serving in Congress, I will work to ensure unborn children, the most vulnerable members of our society, are protected.

I thank my fellow Members here today who share that goal. Let us continue to work for the protection of innocent life.

I thank my colleague again, Mr. SMITH, from New Jersey.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I want to thank the gentlelady from North Carolina for her very eloquent remarks and for her leadership on behalf of the unborn and their mothers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Mrs. ROBY).

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his leadership in the Pro-Life Caucus and for organizing today's discussion.

Of course, next week will mark 41 years since the landmark Supreme Court decision in *ROE v. WADE*, and since then, approximately 56 million unborn children have been aborted in the United States—56 million unborn children aborted.

Recently, important legislative actions have been taken to defend the unborn and protect women from the brutality of late-term abortions. These include measures to tighten restrictions and raise health and safety standards for abortion providers.

As we fight to increase protection for life under the law, I believe it is equally as important to promote the respect for life, emphasizing adoption as a loving alternative to abortion.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to highlight a very special organization in my State called AGAPE. AGAPE provides adoption services, counseling and outreach programs to mothers-to-be across central Alabama.

Talk to anyone who has gone through either side of the adoption process, and they will tell you how challenging it is, and that is where AGAPE comes in.

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AGAPE is there to find permanent nurturing families for children and to make sure all involved in the adoption process have the support they need. It is groups like AGAPE that help a woman with an unplanned pregnancy know about the loving, nonjudgmental way adoption works.

It is groups like AGAPE that give children the hope and opportunity to